

**GORTON  
PHILHARMONIC  
SOCIETY**

**129th YEAR**



**CONCERT**

**STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

**FRIDAY 25th MARCH 1983**

**7.30 p.m.**

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Conductor Colin Touchin  
Leader John Wilson  
Soloist Jack Rothstein

P R O G R A M M E

The NATIONAL ANTHEM

Overture The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave) Opus 26  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy  
1809 - 1847

Mendelssohn visited Scotland in 1829 and the journey directly inspired two of his best-loved works: the Scottish Symphony in A minor and this famous overture, described by Wagner as 'one of the most beautiful works of music'. It is almost a perfect symphonic poem, creating a very real impression of the mystery and majesty of the sea around the coastline and suggesting the sea-birds' calling and the cave's echoing reverberations, along with the incessant surging tides and crashing breakers.

Concerto for violin and orchestra in D major, Opus 61  
Ludwig van Beethoven  
1770 - 1827

Written in 1806, this is one of the most beautiful works in the repertoire. The opening timpani strokes are but one of several original and daring touches of colour and structure adopted, (it is pertinent to note that the young Benjamin Britten began his piano concerto in a similar way, showing an obvious debt and love for this masterwork); the first movement's subjects are so completely interwoven that they hardly seem contrasted, yet bring the flavour of the romantic period into the open with a complete assurance that dominates this age of musical discovery. The mood is continued in the serene peace of the second movement and the gaiety is pursued in the last, energetic movement where the solo violin is at its most dazzling. The darker side of Beethoven's expression is here as well, however the scoring of these passages in all three movements has likened the work in some critics' estimation to a work of symphonic stature.

INTERVAL (15 minutes)

Suite symphonique - Scheherazade Opus 35  
Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov  
1844 - 1908

Largo e maestoso - Allegro non troppo  
Lento - Andantino - Allegro molto  
Andantino quasi allegretto  
Allegro molto - Allegro non troppo: maestoso - Lento

"The Sultan Shakriar, convinced of the falsehood and inconstancy of all women had sworn an oath to put to death each of his wives after the first night. However, the Sultana Scheherazade saved her life by arousing his interest in the tales she told during the 1001 nights. Driven by curiosity the Sultan postponed her execution from day to day and at last abandoned his sanguinary design. Scheherazade told miraculous stories to the Sultan. For her tales she borrowed verses from the poets and words from folk songs combining fairy-tales with adventure."

Rimsky-Korsakov had the idea to write music inspired by various events in 'The Arabian Nights' in the early months of 1888 while completing Borodin's 'Prince Igor'; the original plan was for a very exact programme to each movement (at one time entitled Prelude, Ballade, Adagio and Finale) such as 'The Sea', 'Sinbad's Ship', 'The Kalandar's Narrative' and so on, but in the end he retained only the overall title. The opening theme represents the hard and assertive character of the Sultan and the solo violin's delicate lines display the persuasive sensuousness of Scheherazade herself; at the very end the two themes unite.

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JACK ROTHSTEIN was born in Warsaw in 1925. He was educated in Egypt and Israel between 1931 and 1943 when he joined the British Forces as a musician which resulted in extensive travelling through the Middle East, India and Sri Lanka.

In 1946 he came to Britain and settled here. At that time he restarted his musical education at the Guildhall School of Music. He has appeared as soloist on BBC Radio for over 20 years and directed many orchestras and chamber ensembles.

He took over as Musical Director of the Johann Strauss Gala in 1976 and has since appeared all over the country in that capacity.